This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Cancel claims 1 to 9.

10 (new). A method for producing a hollow body from a blank having an axis, which comprises the steps of successively swaging the blank while simultaneously pushing the blank onto a piercing mandrel in a feeding direction under a predetermined axial force, advancing the piercing mandrel from an initial position in a direction opposite to the feeding direction against said axial force, and returning the piercing mandrel to the initial position synchronously with the axial feeding of the blank between successive swaging steps.

11 (new). The method of claim 10, comprising the further step of providing a central depression in an end face of the blank facing the piercing mandrel prior to swaging the blank.

12 (new). The method of claim 10, comprising the further step of gradually increasing the piercing diameter in successive swaging steps.

13 (new). An apparatus for producing a hollow body from a blank having an axis, which comprises

at least two forging tools positioned diametrically opposite each other with respect to the blank,

a chuck arranged upstream of the forging tools in a feeding direction of the blank, the chuck being provided with a stop for an end face of the blank,

a feed drive and a rotary drive connected to the chuck,

a pressing cylinder for pushing the blank supported on the stop, the feed drive feeding the blank supported on the stop in an axial feeding direction,

an axially displaceable piercing mandrel arranged downstream of the forging tools, and

an actuator connected to the piercing mandrel for reciprocatingly advancing the piercing mandrel from an initial position in an axial direction opposite to the feeding direction and for returning the piercing mandrel to the initial

position, synchronously with the feeding of the blank by the feed drive.

14 (new). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the pressing cylinder is connected to the chuck and the stop has a receiving opening for the piercing mandrel.

15 (new). The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a rotary drive connected to the pressing cylinder for rotating the stop.

16 (new). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the piercing mandrel comprises successive sections of different diameters and a piercing tool facing the blank.

17 (new). The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a chuck arranged downstream of the forging tools, the piercing mandrel passing through the downstream chuck, and the downstream chuck being equipped with a pressing cylinder for pressing against the blank.